

OPINION 1729

***Platyscelis* Latreille, 1818 (Insecta, Coleoptera): *Tenebrio hypolithus* Pallas, 1781 designated as the type species, so conserving *Oodescelis* Motschulsky, 1845**

Ruling

(1) Under the plenary powers all previous fixations of type species for the nominal genus *Platyscelis* Latreille, 1818 are hereby set aside and *Tenebrio hypolithus* Pallas, 1781 is designated as the type species.

(2) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology:

(a) *Platyscelis* Latreille, 1818 (gender: feminine), type species by designation under the plenary powers in (1) above *Tenebrio hypolithus* Pallas, 1781;

(b) *Oodescelis* Motschulsky, 1845 (gender: feminine), type species by subsequent designation by Kaszab (1940) *Blaps polita* Sturm, 1807.

(3) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:

(a) *hypolithus* Pallas, 1781, as published in the binomen *Tenebrio hypolithus* (specific name of the type species of *Platyscelis* Latreille, 1818);

(b) *polita* Sturm, 1807, as published in the binomen *Blaps polita* (specific name of the type species of *Oodescelis* Motschulsky, 1845).

History of Case 2780

An application for the designation of *Tenebrio hypolithus* Pallas, 1781 as the type species of *Platyscelis* Latreille, 1818, so conserving *Oodescelis* Motschulsky, 1845, was received from Dr L.V. Egorov (Zoological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, St Petersburg, Russia) on 13 July 1990. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 48: 302–304 (December 1991). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals.

It was noted on the voting paper that the additional references held by the Commission Secretariat (para. 4 of the application) demonstrating usage of the names *Platyscelis* and *Oodescelis* were all published in the last 35 years and included works by 12 different authors.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 December 1992 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 48: 303. At the close of the voting period on 1 March 1993 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes — 26: Bayer, Bock, Cocks, Cogger, Corliss, Hahn, Halvorsen, Holthuis, Kabata, Kraus, Lehtinen, Macpherson, Mahnert, Martins de Souza, Minelli, Nielsen, Nye, Ride, Savage, Schuster, Starobogatov, Štys, Thompson, Trjapitzin, Uéno, Willink

Negative votes — 2: Dupuis and Heppell.

Bouchet abstained.

Heppell and Ride commented that since *Tenebrio hypolithus* Pallas, 1781 was not an originally included species of *Platyscelis* Latreille, 1818, Guérin's (1828) designation (para. 1 of the application) was invalid (cf. proposal (1) in para. 5). This point

has been incorporated in the present Opinion. Bouchet and Heppell each commented that it seemed inappropriate to retain the date and authorship of a monotypic genus when neither the original description nor the originally included species were in accord with the current usage of the taxon; they would have preferred to suppress *Platyscelis* Latreille, 1818 and to attribute the name to Dejean (1821). *T. hypolithus* would then have been the type species by monotypy.

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on Official Lists by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

hypolithus, *Tenebrio*, Pallas, 1781, *Icones insectorum praesertim Russiae Siberiaeque peculiarium, quae collegit et descriptionibus illustravit*, p. 44.

Oodescelis Motschulsky, 1845, *Bulletin de la Société Impériale des Sciences des Naturalistes de Moscou*, 18(1): 76.

Platyscelis Latreille, 1818, in: *Nouveau Dictionnaire d'Histoire naturelle*, Ed. 2, vol. 27, p. 23.
polita, *Blaps*, Sturm, 1807, *Deutschlands Fauna in Abbildungen nach der Natur mit Beschreibungen*, part 5.2, p. 208.

The following is the reference for the designation of *Blaps polita* Sturm, 1807 as the type species of the nominal genus *Oodescelis* Motschulsky, 1845:

Kasab, Z. 1940. *Mitteilungen der Münchner Entomologischen Gesellschaft*, 30(3): 937.